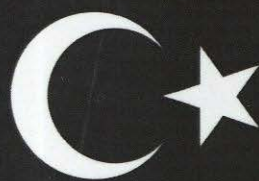


HISTORICAL DICTIONARY *of*

LIBYA



RONALD BRUCE ST JOHN

SIXTH
EDITION

Historical Dictionary of Libya

Sixth Edition

Ronald Bruce St John

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Author's Preface	ix
Introduction	xiii
Abbreviations	xv
Chronology and Appendixes	xvii
Index	xix
Appendix A: Libya's Past Status	xi
Appendix B: National Symbols, 1943–1951	xii
Appendix C: British Occupation of Libya, 1943–1949	xiii
Appendix D: Libyan Constitution, 1952–2006	xiv
Appendix E: Revolutionary Committee Charter, January 1969	xv
Appendix F: Libyan Declaration of Independence, October 1973	xvi
Appendix G: Declaration of National Unity, September 2007	xvii
Appendix H: Provençal Arabic Glossary, 1987–2020	xviii
Appendix I: Selected Conventions of Sanctuaries against Libya	xix
Glossary	xxi
Bibliography	xxiii
About the Author	xxv

To Carol

Contents

Editor's Foreword	xi
Preface	xiii
Reader's Note	xv
Acronyms and Abbreviations	xvii
Maps	xxi
Chronology	xxix
Introduction	1
THE DICTIONARY	21
Appendix A Libya Fact Sheet	417
Appendix B Karamanli Dynasty, 1711–1835	421
Appendix C Turkish Governors of Libya, 1835–1911	423
Appendix D Libyan Cabinets, 1952–1969	425
Appendix E Revolutionary Command Council, January 1970	427
Appendix F Libyan Government, October 2012	429
Appendix G Government of National Unity, September 2022	431
Appendix H Proven Crude Oil Reserves, 1967–2020	433
Appendix I Selected Chronology of Sanctions against Libya	435
Glossary	437
Bibliography	441
About the Author	549

Ulama	Learned persons and religious leaders well versed in Koranic studies; the intellectual or religious elite whose opinions count in Islamic societies.
Umma	The community of Muslims worldwide.
Vilayet	(<i>wilayah</i>) Administrative division of the Ottoman empire comparable to a province and administered by a <i>wali</i> .
Wadi	River or dry riverbed. A wadi may become a swift, violent stream after heavy rains; many wadis, especially larger ones in areas of heavier rainfall, contain a subterranean flow a short distance below the surface.
Wali	(<i>wali</i>) Chief administrator at the district level in Libya during the Ottoman era.
Zawiya	(<i>zawiyah</i> ; <i>zawia</i> ; pl. <i>zawayat</i>) Religious lodge or order founded by a person renowned for religious knowledge or holiness; also, buildings for religious study or monasteries, often constructed at tribal centers, oases, and the junctions of trade and pilgrimage routes.

Bibliography

CONTENTS

I. Introduction	445
II. General	452
Bibliographies and Dictionaries	452
General Information and Interdisciplinary Studies	453
Guides and Yearbooks	454
Travel and Description	454
III. Culture	456
General	456
Archaeology and Prehistory	461
Architecture	462
Artisanry	463
Linguistics and Literature	464
IV. Economy	464
General	466
Agriculture and Pastoral Nomadism	468
Communications and Transport	469
Development	471
Finance and Commerce	472
Fisheries	472
Industry	473
Labor	473
Mining and Minerals	473

Petroleum	473
Trade	475
Water	476
V. History	477
General	477
Ancient	478
Early Colonial Occupation	481
Italian Occupation	484
Monarchical Libya	489
Qaddafi Era	491
February 17 Revolution	492
VI. Juridical	496
Domestic	496
International	497
VII. Politics	500
General	500
Domestic	505
International	515
Official Libyan Publications	530
VIII. Science	531
General	531
Botany	531
Geography and Geology	532
Meteorology	536
Zoology	536
IX. Society	536
Anthropology	536
Demography	539
Education	540

Health	542
Religion	542
Sociology	545
X. Internet Resources	548

I. INTRODUCTION

At the outset of the One September Revolution in 1969, only a handful of books on Libya were available to the general reader. Fortunately, this situation improved over the next decade in large part due to widespread interest in the policies of the revolutionary government led by Muammar al-Qaddafi. The economic sanctions imposed by the United States in the 1980s and by the United Nations in the 1990s later stifled field research in Libya, creating a new gap in scholarship. With the lifting of those sanctions, scholarly output on Libya increased, and in the wake of the February 17 Revolution that overthrew the Qaddafi regime in 2011, it continued to increase.

In addition to the extensive bibliography found in the sixth edition of the *Historical Dictionary of Libya*, a shorter bibliography focused on contemporary Libya can be found in Ronald Bruce St John, *Libya: Continuity and Change*, second edition. With the general reader in mind, an annotated list for further reading is available in Ronald Bruce St John, *Libya: From Colony to Revolution*, third edition. A relatively comprehensive albeit dated bibliography can be found in volume 79 of the World Bibliographical Series, *Libya*, compiled by Richard I. Lawless. Also useful is the volume titled *A Concise Bibliography of Northern Chad and Fezzan in Southern Libya*, edited by Mohamed A. Alawar and published in 1983. Older but still helpful bibliographies include *Libya 1969–1974: A Bibliography*, edited by Aghil M. Barbar; *A Bibliography of Libya*, edited by Roy W. Hill; *The Middle East: A Selected Bibliography of Recent Works, 1970–1972 Supplement*, edited by H. Howard; and *Index Libycus: Bibliography of Libya, 1957–1969, with Supplementary Material, 1915–1956*, edited by Hans Schlüter.

As for general histories of Libya, Ronald Bruce St John's *Libya: From Colony to Revolution*, third edition, chronicles Libyan history from pre-historic times through the early years of the post-Qaddafi era, while Dirk Vandewalle's *A History of Modern Libya*, second edition, concentrates on the independence period. John Wright's *Libya: A Modern History*, first published in 1982 and updated in 2010, continues to be useful. For political development in the 19th and 20th centuries, see Lisa Anderson's pioneering work *The State and Social Transformation in Tunisia and Libya, 1830–1980*.